

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 25, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H232 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable William M. Thomas  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1102 Longworth  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert and Chairman Thomas:

With our strong support, the House of Representatives has twice passed an extension of the state sales tax deduction in less than a year.

We deeply regret that the most recent House-approved extension of the state sales tax deduction is being blocked in the Senate. A minority of Senators are acting as an obstacle to ensuring our state's residents are fairly treated under the federal tax code.

We are not able to control the actions of the Senate, but we sincerely hope that before the Senate adjourns that the blockade against extending the state sales tax deduction will be lifted.

Should those Senators standing in the way of extending this deduction keep obstructing it from becoming law, they will have succeeded in denying the over 925,000 Washington state taxpayers who utilized this deduction in 2004 from being able to keep more than \$500 million of their own money. Instead, the federal government will tax away the more than \$500 that the average Washington taxpayer benefits from this deduction.

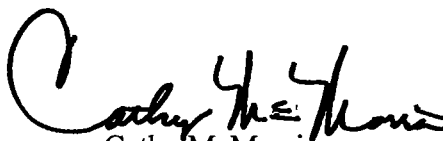
We've voted repeatedly for this deduction, we continue trying to convince more of our colleagues to cast their votes for the extension, and even if a minority in the Senate continues its blockade and does not relent before November, we remain committed to continuing our push to make it happen.

Thank you for your support for successfully getting this important provision repeatedly passed by the House and we appreciate your willingness to keep working with us to ensure the deduction's extension is enacted into law.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris  
Member of Congress



Dave G. Reichert  
Member of Congress